Appl. No. 09/778,666
Amdt. dated August 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 26, 2004

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A computer system for managing allocation levels of advertising inventory, comprising:

a computer;

instructions executable by the computer to identify a plurality of categories of ad impressions; advertisements; and

instructions executable by the computer to implement a plurality of restrictions designed to limit said allocation levels of said advertising inventory;

wherein one or more of said plurality of restrictions are applied to one or more of said categories of advertisements so as to limit the availability of said one or more of said categories of ad impressions. advertisements.

2.   (Currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein each one of said plurality of categories of ad impressions advertisements is designated a pricing level.

3.   (Currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of restrictions are designed based on one or more demand analyses performed on said plurality of categories of ad impressions. advertisements.

4.   (Currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein ad revenue generated by sale of said advertising inventory is optimized by limiting the availability of said one or more of said categories ad impressions. advertisements.

5.   (Currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said one or more of said plurality of restrictions applied to said one or more of said plurality of categories of ad impressions advertisements are adjusted in response to demand for said one or more of said plurality of categories of ad impressions. advertisements.

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6.   (Currently amended) The system according to claim 5, wherein said demand for one of said plurality of categories of ad impressions advertisements is calculated using a method comprising steps of:

generating a matrix having a plurality of rows and a plurality of columns, wherein a row and a column define a cell, each of said plurality of rows represents a specific day of delivery, each of said plurality of columns represents number of days before delivery, and value of a cell represents number of ad impressions to be delivered;

populating cells of said matrix with data;

plotting a graph having a y-axis and a x-axis, said y-axis representing day of delivery and said x-axis representing days before delivery, wherein data points on said graph correspond to said cells of said matrix;

identifying a data line from said graph based on a selected date; and

extrapolating a requested data point using said data line.

7.   (Currently amended) A computer system for managing allocation levels of advertising inventory, comprising:

an ad request interface capable of issuing a request for a desired category of ad impressions advertisements within said advertising inventory; and

an inventory management system designed to provide a response to said request issued by said ad request interface;

wherein said response includes availability information on said desired category of ad impressions; advertisements;

wherein said availability information is obtained based on selectively restricting the quantity of said desired category of ad impressions advertisements which are available for sale.

8.   (Original) The system according to claim 7, wherein said request includes date and demographic information.

9.   (Currently amended) The system according to claim 7, wherein ad revenue generated from sale of said advertising inventory is optimized by selectively restricting the quantity of said desired category of ad impressions ~~advertisements~~ which are available for sale.

10.   (Currently amended) The system according to claim 7, wherein said selective restriction is made based on respective demand for said desired category of ad impressions ~~advertisements~~ and other categories of ad impressions. ~~advertisements.~~

11.   (Currently amended) The system according to claim 10, wherein said selective restriction is adjusted in response to respective subsequent demand for said desired category of ad impressions ~~advertisements~~ and other categories of ad impressions. ~~advertisements.~~

12.   (Currently amended) The system according to claim 10, wherein demand for said desired category of ad impressions ~~advertisements~~ is calculated using a method comprising steps of:

generating a matrix having a plurality of rows and a plurality of columns, wherein a row and a column define a cell, each of said plurality of rows represents a specific day of delivery, each of said plurality of columns represents number of days before delivery, and value of a cell represents number of ad impressions to be delivered;

populating cells of said matrix with data;

plotting a graph having a y-axis and a x-axis, said y-axis representing day of delivery and said x-axis representing days before delivery, wherein data points on said graph correspond to said cells of said matrix;

identifying a data line from said graph based on a selected date; and

extrapolating a requested data point using said data line.

13.   (Currently amended) The system according to claim 7, wherein said advertising inventory has a plurality of categories of ad impressions; ~~advertisements;~~

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wherein said plurality of categories of ad impressions ~~advertisements~~ have their respective pricing levels;

wherein said desired category of ad impressions ~~advertisements~~ has the lowest pricing level amongst said respective pricing levels.

14.   (Currently amended) A computer system for managing advertising inventory to optimize ad revenue, comprising:

an ad request interface capable of issuing a request for a desired category of ad impressions ~~advertisements~~ within said advertising inventory;

an inventory management system configured to interact with said ad request interface by forwarding a response to said ad request interface pursuant to said request; and

an availability allocation module designed to provide said response to said inventory management system;

wherein said response is prepared based on one or more selective restrictions designed to limit the quantity of said desired category of ad impressions ~~advertisements~~ which are available for sale.

15.   (Original) The system according to claim 14, wherein said request includes date and demographic information.

16.   (Currently amended) The system according to claim 14, wherein said inventory management system calculates an amount of available inventory for said desired category of ad impressions; ~~advertisements;~~ and

wherein said availability allocation module adjusts said amount of available inventory based on said one or more selective restrictions and prepares said response using said adjusted amount of available inventory.

17.   (Currently amended) The system according to claim 16, wherein said amount of available inventory is adjusted based on demand for other categories of ad impressions. ~~advertisements.~~

18.   (Currently amended) The system according to claim 17, wherein said desired category of ad impressions ~~advertisements~~ has a pricing level;

wherein said other categories of ad impressions ~~advertisements~~ have their respective pricing levels; and

wherein said pricing level of said desired category of ad impressions ~~advertisements~~ is lowest amongst said respective pricing levels of said other categories of ad impressions. ~~advertisements.~~

19.   (Currently amended) A method for managing allocation levels of advertising inventory, comprising steps of:

classifying said advertising inventory into a plurality of categories of ad impressions; ~~advertisements;~~ and

imposing with a computer at least one restriction on at least one of said plurality of categories of ad impressions ~~advertisements~~ to limit the amount of said at least one of said plurality of categories of ad impressions ~~advertisements~~ which is available for sale.

20.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim 19, further comprising a step of:

adjusting said at least one restriction in response to demand for others of said plurality of categories of ad impressions. ~~advertisements.~~

21.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein said at least one restriction is imposed based on respective demand for said plurality of categories of ad impressions. ~~advertisements.~~

22.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein said plurality of categories of ad impressions ~~advertisements~~ have their respective pricing levels; and

wherein said at least one of said plurality of categories of ad impressions ~~advertisements~~ has a pricing level amongst the lowest of said respective pricing levels of said plurality of categories of ad impressions. ~~advertisements.~~

23.   (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein ad revenue generated by sale of said advertising inventory is optimized by said imposition of said at least one restriction.

24.   (Currently amended) A method for managing advertising inventory to enhance ad revenue, comprising steps of:

receiving at a computer an availability request for a desired category of ad impressions advertisements within said advertising inventory;

determining a quantity of said desired category of ad impressions advertisements which are available for sale;

adjusting with the computer said quantity based on one or more restrictions imposed on said desired category of ad impressions; advertisements; and

providing a response to said availability request using said adjusted quantity.

25.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim 24, further comprising a step of:

adjusting said one or more restrictions in response to demand for other categories of ad impressions advertisements within said advertising inventory.

26.   (Currently amended) A method for calculating a demand curve, comprising steps of:

generating with a computer a matrix having a plurality of rows and a plurality of columns, wherein a row and a column define a cell, each of said plurality of rows represents a specific day of delivery, each of said plurality of columns represents number of days before delivery, and value of a cell represents number of ad impressions to be delivered;

populating cells of said matrix with data;

the computer plotting a graph having a y-axis and a x-axis, said y-axis representing day of delivery and said x-axis representing days before delivery, wherein data points on said graph correspond to said cells of said matrix;

identifying a data line from said graph based on a selected date; and

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extrapolating a requested data point using said data line.

27.   (Currently amended) A method for calculating a demand curve, comprising steps of:

tabulating with a computer a plurality of cells for a delivery date, said plurality of cells representing respectively number of ad impressions to be delivered on consecutive days starting from said delivery date;

repeating said tabulating step for all delivery dates;

the computer plotting a graph having a y-axis and a x-axis, said y-axis representing day of delivery and said x-axis representing days before delivery, wherein data points on said graph correspond to said plurality of cells;

identifying a data line from said graph based on a selected date; and

extrapolating a requested data point using said data line.

28.   (New) The method according to claim 26, further comprising: plotting a demand curve based on the requested data point.

28.   (New) The method according to claim 27, further comprising: plotting a demand curve based on the requested data point.